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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Of especial interest in this week's summary: Use of neighborhood leaders in making house-to-house canvas on farm help needs; 12,000 Victory Farm Volunteers now at work on farms in one State; continuing emphasis on Victory Gardens and other aspects of home food supply.

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HAWAII
May 24, 1943

Home food supply.— Homemakers being taught how to pickle surplus cabbage, string beans, and green tomatoes, because of unavailability of pressure cookers. Products include sauerkraut, cabbage relish, pickled string beans, beet relish, and several kinds of green-tomato pickles. Pickle recipes given out through radio and newspapers.

Considerable emphasis placed on raising rabbits for home food supply. Homemakers shown how to kill, dress, and cook rabbit. Working on problem of increasing taro production to meet shortage. This food is much used by Hawaiians and others.

Feeds.— Working with feed committee members, dealers, and dairymen to meet critical shortage of soybean meal. Set up revised soybean quota based on supply on hand plus quantities known fairly definitely to be expected to arrive soon. Also worked out equitable allotment of rolled barley, mill run, middlings, fish meal, and meat and bone meal to alleviate existing shortage of these feeds.

Marketing.— Group of tomato growers were taken to see their own produce arriving at Hawaii Produce Market in Hilo. Trip was very effective method of impressing upon them the need for proper sorting and grading of tomatoes.

KANSAS
June 12, 1943

Farm labor.— Organization of farm labor program completed. Two schools conducted for State personnel and 15 district schools for county groups, to inform them of plans and procedures. Governor appointed State farm labor commission of nine men to serve as advisory body in planning and conduct of program. Representative of commission in each county acts as chairman of county advisory committee.

Summary No. 57
June 26, 1943

834-43

Neighborhood leader organization will make house-to-house canvass in each county to find what farm help is needed, what help is available, to inform farmers how to get help, and to supply from within neighborhood as much of needed help as possible. School superintendents will help in survey of high school boys and girls. Businessmen's organizations will help with survey of other town and city labor available for regular or emergency needs.

Program is definitely coordinated with work of USES to avoid duplication of effort and to economize in use of available personnel. With proper interest and effective operation of plan, it is expected that sufficient help can be arranged to handle all necessary farm work.

Victory Gardens.- Practically every farm family has planted at least one garden. In towns and cities more producing gardens in evidence than ever before. Largest home vegetable garden production on record expected, in spite of floods and late spring freezes, which, in some sections destroyed many early gardens and delayed production in others. Suggestion on replanting flooded gardens sent to all counties affected.

Potatoes.- Commercial Irish potato acreage goal reached, and prospects indicate one of best yields in recent years. Plans being worked out for digging and orderly handling of crop. Considerable publicity given to proper digging, handling, and storage of home potato crop.

Dairy production.- Producers encouraged to use temporary pasture to greater advantage, including pasturing off of some wheat that will not make a good crop in certain areas. Farmers also advised to harvest some cereal grain crops for hay where alfalfa and other hay crops are short. In flooded areas, recommendations were made for planting of types of crops that would give greatest field yield after floods had receded.

Dairymen urged to keep in mind shortage of both protein supplement and total grain in planning feeding program for next winter, and to make full utilization of quality roughage.

Cooperative project set up with cheese plants, dairy department, and Extension to improve quality of cheese manufactured.

Livestock.- Much time devoted to livestock conservation - assisting producers to control or prevent usual death loss of 30 percent of young pigs, 5 to 25 percent of calves, 15 percent of baby chicks, death loss of young lambs, and prelambling loss of ewes.

Encouragement given to preventive vaccination against sleeping sickness in horses, which are wartime asset for power, pleasure, or meat if kept healthy. Since sleeping sickness of horses is transmissible to man, its control has considerable bearing on human health.

4-H Clubs.- Nine district 1-day 4-H Club Round-ups held as substitute for week-long round-up held at State college for many years. Results are saving in transportation and in time for farm labor; also more club members and leaders can be reached with suggestions for their contribution to war effort than would be possible in State-wide round-up.

4-H Club workers active in formulating and promoting plans for Victory Farm Volunteers.

NORTH DAKOTA

June 15, 1943

Farm labor.-- Complete plan and organization of emergency farm labor effort outlined at district and subdistrict meetings with county agents. State-wide organization set up, with county agents in full charge in each county, working in close cooperation with USES. Supplementing county and area recruitment and placement offices are 407 local labor agencies.

Schools in State surveyed by Extension, and suitable students -- both boys and girls -- signed up for farm work. Tentative check-up shows 12,000 school youngsters now at work on farms, and reserve list of others ready to go to work when rush harvest season comes. Excellent cooperation obtained from schools and from Smith-Hughes departments. In addition to actual labor supplies, Extension Service has cooperated with schools in conducting farm mechanic and machine repair courses.

Steps taken to survey farm labor requirements and to gauge needs for custom combine harvesting. Plans involve listing of custom combine harvest work, with labor offices scheduling combine operations to permit efficient use of equipment and reduce unnecessary travel of machines.

County OCD councils cooperating in campaign for enlisting short-time and part-time help on harvest from town residents. Extension working closely with State Farm Labor organization. Urban residents are object of drive to persuade them to spend their vacation time on farms this year.

Extensive informational and publicity drive organized to encourage farmers to exchange labor and equipment, use machines and labor efficiently, adopt labor-saving methods, and devise labor-saving equipment; and to obtain fullest possible cooperation from towns and schools for temporary labor during harvest rush. Informational material prepared on labor-saving farm devices and equipment. Posters useful to situation obtained and distribution plans worked out.

Victory Gardens.-- On basis of county reports and observations, nearly 100 percent of all family-operated farms have Victory Gardens this year. Late spring affected progress of gardens, but Extension Service through publicity, meetings, letters, and other means, has continued to emphasize later plantings and value of late crops. With aid of neighborhood leaders, circulars and informational material on crops, garden management, insect and disease control have had wide distribution. Similar work done in towns.

Food preservation.-- Training school held for workers on food-preservation problems. Series of community meetings organized to carry information to homes. Special effort made to include towns as well as rural homes. Material on canning, drying, freezing, storing, and conserving all available foods has been prepared. Neighborhood leaders to serve in preservation program.

Livestock.-- State-wide series of local livestock meetings on production, sanitation, feeding, and general livestock problems being completed in June. Training schools conducted for sheep shearers. Farmers urged to save feed for largest livestock population since 1933.

Crops.- Season has been favorable to small grain crops but unfavorable to corn, potatoes, and row crops. Planting of emergency hay and feed crops in all areas delayed by excessive moisture, encouraged in publicity. This effort to obtain useful production on all available land being continued. Hay and feed crop outlook is excellent and conservation of all feed is being encouraged. Haying difficulty is shortage of machinery and labor.

WYOMING

June 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Surveys made in all counties to determine how many men will be needed, and when. Labor committees set up to advise and assist agents in organizing counties to meet labor needs. All county agent offices functioned in helping to meet immediate needs for lambing hands and shearing work. Demand has been met satisfactorily through bringing in Spanish-Americans from Southwest, some Navajo Indians, using some itinerant workers, and making best use of all available local help. Lambing now 90 percent complete; shearing more than 75 percent. Agents report that where sheepmen have been short-handed, losses due to labor shortage were few.

Importation of Mexicans promises to take care of best labor demands. These men appear to be high type of worker and are expected to do good work.

Victory Gardens.- Big increase indicated in number of gardens in towns, villages, on farms and ranches. In town of Lusk, five times as many gardens as last year are reported.

Lance Creek oil field is checkered with gardens, large and small, individual and community. This is result of oil company's response to need and its willingness to supply water for employees' gardens.